and (b) The progress of the Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (JMFS) has not been satisfactory mainly due to unsatisfactory progress in the development of indigenous machinery thereby restricting the scop of modernisation, failure of circular looms in the direction of modernisation and non-receipt of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction's approval for rehabilitation cf the Companies.

(c) Out of the total fund of Rs. 150 crores, Rs. 83.58 crores have been sanctioned to 20 mills and amount disbursed is Rs. 42.81 crores to 13 Jute Mills. The Mills have acquired or installed various types of macinery such as the Jute Goods spreader, felt plant, precision winders, carpet plants circular looms, extrusion plant etc.

(d) A High Powered Committee constituted to look into various aspects of Jute Industry has recommended, inter-alia, that the existing modernisation scheme should be revamped to provide greater flexibility and scope for participation by a number of Jute Mills with the main objective of facilitating diversification under the Scheme. The Committee has also suggested that a package of incentives should be worked out to motivate Industry to take up Modernisation work rapidly.

**EXPORT OF ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITERS**

2391. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased ie state :

(a) wheher it is a fact that India has captured a good market for export of electronic typewriters ; if so, what are the production domestic demand and export figures for the past three years, including exports to Russia; and

(b) whether it is a fact that while personal computers and manual typewriters attract 15 percent Excise duty. Electronic Typewriters attract 25 percent Excise duty; if so, what are the reasons for such disparity, especially when personal computers and electronic typewriter belong to the same category of products ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Hectronic typewriters are being exported to various countries including Russia. The production of typewriters both electronic and mannual during the past three years is as under :—

(ill thousand nos.)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 120.28 |
| 1991-92 | 115.86 |
| 1992-93 | 108.14 |

Domestic demand estimates for electronic typewriters are not available. The export figures for the last three years, including e?;port to Russia, are as under :—

| Year | Qty. | Value (Rs. Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 752 | 134.31 |
| 1991-92 | 253 | 88.60 |
| 1992-93 | 717 | 154.64 |

(SOURCE : DCCI&S)

(b) Personal computers attract 15 percent excise duly, manual typewriters attract various specific rates and electronic typewriters attract 25 percent excise duty. These items are not comparable with each other. The classification of computers and typewriters from the point of view of levy of excise duty is also different under the Central Excise Tarif Act.

**PROTEST AGAINST DUNKEL DRAFT *BY* FORMERS**

2392. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA CHARYA : Will the Minister of COM MERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian farmers have joined their counterparts in France, Japan and other countries to protest against adoption of Dunkel Draft;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under caption "Farmers protest against Dunkel in Geneva" as reported in the Statesman, Delhi edition dated 5;h December, 1993 and

(c) if so, further steps being taken to prctect Indian farmers against foreign invasion ine Indian Agridulture ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (d) A news item had appeared in "The Statesman" of 5 December, 1993, in which it was reported that farmers from India, Europe and Japan demonstrated at Geneva against adoption of the Dunkel Draft.

(c) It is not anticipated that there would be any foreign invasion into Indian Agriculture.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING FROM COAL EXPORT**

2393. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN :
SHRI J. S. RAJU :
SHRI MISA R. GAHESAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total coal exported during 1992-93 and the amount earned during this period;

(b) what is the name of the country which imported the maximum coal from India; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to boost foreign exchange earnings from coal export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total quantity of coal exported is 5.01 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 50.01 crores daring 1992-93.

(b) Bangladesh

(c) All restriction on export of coal have been removed from 1-4-1993.

**IMPORT OF COMPUTERS FROM USA**

2394. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheher Government propose to import powerful computers from USA;

(b) if SC, the details thereof with the background for such a move;

(c) whether availability of these powerful computers in the country has been planned for the year 1994;

(d) if so, the details thereof with amount of foreign exchange to be spent on such import;

(e) whether advantages of these computers have been explained to the people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (f) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, Computer Systems